

## California Monthly Climate Summary April 2006

### **Summary**

April 2006 started by continuing March's cold wet pattern for most of California. However, by the end of April the precipitation ended and temperatures swung to above average. The warm dry weather initiated snowmelt in the Sierra.

Precipitation for the month ended above average across the entire state. For the Northern California 8-station index, April 2006 was the second wettest on record. In the San Joaquin basin, excessive rain led to flooding concerns. Monthly precipitation and temperature data for the 10 hydrologic regions in the state and statewide average are shown in tables below.

April 1 is generally considered the point of maximum snowpack for the Sierra. This year's heavy precipitation led to continued growth of the pack for most of the month. By the end of the month, warm temperatures initiated the spring melt. A summary of snow conditions is included in a table below. For more information on state snow and estimated spring runoff conditions, please see the Bulletin 120 at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/bulletin120/b120apr06.pdf>.

The El Nino/Southern Oscillation is moving back to neutral conditions after being in a La Nina pattern. Sea surface temperatures and oceanic heat patterns indicate neutral conditions while tropical precipitation and wind patterns indicate the last stages of the La Nina pattern. ENSO neutral conditions are expected for the rest of the year. For further discussion of ENSO conditions go to [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/enso\\_advisory/](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/). ENSO conditions along with current trends indicate a warmer than average remainder of spring for California. Long-range precipitation and temperature outlook plots can be found at: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/longrang/page20605.gif>

For anomaly information please see [http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/anom/cal\\_anom.html](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/anom/cal_anom.html).

### **Other Climate Summaries**

[California Climate Watch \(DRI\)](#)

[Golden Gate Weather Service Climate Summary](#)

[NOAA Monthly State of the Climate Report](#)

### **Statewide Extremes**

High Temperature – 101 deg F (Squaw Lake)

Low Temperature - -11 deg F (Horse Meadow, Tuolumne River)

High Precipitation – Strawberry Valley 19.71 inches

Low Precipitation – Imperial Valley 0 inches

Maximum Snow Depth May 1<sup>st</sup> – Lower Lassen Peak 19.6 feet (140.8 inches SWC)

SWC – Snow water content

### **Statewide Precipitation Statistics**

Hydrologic Region	Region Weight	Basins Reporting			Stations Reporting			Percent of Historic Average	
		Basins	Apr	Oct-Apr	Stations	Apr	Oct-Apr	Apr	Oct-Apr
NORTH COAST	0.27	5	5	5	19	14	12	183.3%	154%
SAN FRANCISCO BAY	0.03	2	2	2	6	5	5	307.7%	160%
CENTRAL COAST	0.06	3	3	3	11	9	9	318.8%	123%
SOUTH COAST	0.06	3	3	3	15	12	10	176.2%	71%
SACRAMENTO RIVER	0.26	5	5	5	43	37	33	304.6%	160%
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER	0.12	6	6	6	25	19	17	319.4%	145%
TULARE LAKE	0.07	5	5	5	28	28	26	292.8%	129%
NORTH LAHONTAN	0.04	3	3	3	14	11	10	268.1%	154%
SOUTH LAHONTAN	0.06	3	2	2	15	9	9	208.4%	99%
COLORADO RIVER	0.03	1	1	1	6	4	4	88.9%	50%
STATEWIDE WEIGHTED AVERAGE	1.00	36	36	36	182	148	135	252.33%	139.65%

### **Statewide Mean Temperature Data by Hydrologic Region (degrees F)**

Hydrologic Region	No. Stations	Minimum	Average	Maximum
North Coast	36	36.8	47.6	55.5
SF Bay	20	42.7	52.5	59.9
Central Coast	27	44.7	52.6	58.6
South Coast	69	44.0	54.0	61.4
Sacramento	117	32.9	47.7	59.8
San Joaquin	81	35.1	48.5	62.8
Tulare Lake	24	22.2	42.4	63.9
North Lahontan	32	32.3	38.2	48.3
South Lahontan	17	29.6	43.6	57.2
Colorado River	21	53.1	67.0	78.8
Statewide Weighted Average	444	35.5	48.2	59.3

### **Summary of Snow Surveys**

Region	No. Basins	No. Courses	Avg WC	% Average April 1	% Average May 1
North Coast	3	10	55.0"	168%	240%
Sacramento	6	67	41.7"	128%	178%
San Joaquin Valley	5	58	51.4"	153%	186%
Tulare Lake	4	36	35.4"	142%	182%
North Lahontan	4	5	35.2"	143%	168%
South Lahontan	2	2	20.1"	155%	180%
<b>Statewide Average (weighted)</b>				<b>143%</b>	<b>186%</b>

[Regional Snowpack Plots](#)